

Center for Surface Combat Systems, Aegis Training & Readiness Center hold change of command

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By George Dunn, *Center for Surface Combat Systems Public Affairs*

DAHLGREN, Va. — Capt. Roger C. Easton Jr. relieved Capt. Paul E. Stanton as commanding officer of the Center for Surface Combat Systems (CSCS) and the Aegis Training and Readiness Center (ATRC) during a change-of-command ceremony at the RADM Wayne E. Meyer Aegis Education Center in Dahlgren, Va., May 14. Vice Adm. James D. McArthur Jr., Commander, Naval Network Warfare Command, was presiding officer.

In assuming command, Easton commented that when Lewis and Clark set out to find a connecting waterway to the Pacific Ocean -- an event that began May 14, 1804 -- President Thomas Jefferson had the foresight to understand the value of stepping forward beyond what reasonable individuals would strive for and take the risk for the potential exponential payoff.

"This was indeed revolutionary," Easton said. "In a similar way I believe today we are at a crossroads in naval training ... and will need to embrace new, innovative training methods that will provide the best possible training, at the right time, efficiently delivered, leveraging the tremendous advancement in technology which the past two decades have yielded."

Easton assumes command following his most recent tour of duty as Deputy Director, Joint Theater Air & Missile Defense Organization, Joint Staff, in Washington, D.C.

During his remarks, Vice Adm. McArthur acknowledged the establishment of the Center for Surface Combat Systems as part of the Naval Personnel Development Command and the transition of ATRC from the Naval Sea Systems Command to the Naval Education and Training Command as part of Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Vern Clark's Revolution in Navy Training.

Stanton was the first commanding officer of the Center for Surface Combat Systems, which was provisionally established in October 2002 as part of Naval Personnel Development Command. In his speech, Stanton noted that the Navy is currently undergoing tremendous change that extends to the Navy's educational endeavors and the schoolhouses it runs. "Navy schoolhouses are in the middle of significant reorganization and the Center for Surface Combat Systems part involves more than 50,000 Sailors and a dozen enlisted ratings," he said.

He said the Center was creating a common taxonomy on the web so that "training can be accomplished anytime, anywhere it is needed." CSCS and ATRC are involved in the web-based data program to provide this training and will provide 5 Vector Models for "training that is required by a Sailor -- technical ability, academic ability, performance, professional development and personal development.

The Center for Surface Combat Systems is responsible for training the officers and enlisted personnel who operate, maintain and employ the weapons systems found aboard the Navy's surface ships. It includes training eight Navy combat systems Navy Enlisted Codes including Fire Controlman, Gunners Mate, Operations Specialist, Sonar Technician, Electronics Technician, Torpedoman, Mineman and Internal Communications Specialist ratings. CSCS also has the responsibility for training the Boatswains Mate, Quartermaster and Signalman ratings.

The AEGIS Training and Readiness Center was established in November 1984. Its core mission is training personnel in the operation, maintenance and employment of various weapons systems associated with the AEGIS Combat Systems found aboard the Navy's Aegis cruisers and destroyers.

For more information about the Center for Surface Combat Systems, log onto Navy Knowledge Online at www.nko.navy.mil and visit the "Surface Combat Systems" page under Learning Centers.